

Hunter Hotline!

October 26, 2015

Greetings All,

I hope everyone is having a successful season so far. I have to admit hunting has been a little slow on both refuges for an October. We actually have some decent water but the warmer than usual temps have thrown off our averages. Hopefully we will see a change in the weather here soon and things will pick up.

Habitat update-

Tule Lake – both sumps are a little low but hunting has been consistent, we have flooded grain in lots 5, 6 & 7, with lots 3 & 4 just started (along A-dike) as well as in the field east of the check station. The “A” blinds 1-4 are finally harvested and will hopefully get water started in the next few weeks. All the grain is harvested, most of the potatoes and onions close to being done. Once again the drought has not allowed us to flood our walking wetlands in the League so there are no wetlands with cattails and marsh vegetation.

Lower Klamath – we currently have water in 6a, 6b-1, 7b and the Stearns blinds. The sanctuary has water in Unit 2, White Lake and part of 3a. As for grain, 4c, 7a and 8b have all been harvested and are open to hunt. Hunting on LK has been slow but consistent as well. Some of the Oregon Straits units are flooded and have been hunting fairly well, sounds like it is all about timing so make sure to scout.

Information on the web – this has been the year of technological troubles. First our webpage system goes down, then our internal computer network. This has been extremely frustrating, not only for you folks but for us as well. We have lots of information to give you and have been unable to get it posted. Hopefully by the time you are reading this hotline we are back up and running. However, in the event we have this problem again I will start posting information on our Face Book page. If you have not had a chance to visit us on Facebook please do so. We are under Klamath Basin Refuges and our icon is a bufflehead with the service shield (there seems to be several pages).

Hunt Stats – I know we are well behind on posting stats and we are working on those right now. We will be posting stats twice per week for both refuges; the format will be the same as in past years. If you have any questions as to how we do our stats please feel free to contact us and we will walk you through the process.

Pheasant Season – The one thing drought has been good for is our upland birds! The spring rains gave us lots of little bugs and weed seeds and they seem to be thriving! Opening day this season is November 14th. Some of the areas have changes so please make sure to check the hunt map before heading out to the field. For those who have not hunted pheasants here before, or for a while, we do not have a lottery or sign ups, just make sure you have your upland validation and your Refuge Recreation Pass. We do require blaze orange on the Refuge now for pheasant hunting, a hat or a vest is all you need.

Look for the next Hotline about mid-November

Cheers and good hunting!

Stacy

If you have ideas or comments about the hunt program please contact me at the Refuge at 530-667-2231 or send me an email at stacy_freitas@fws.gov